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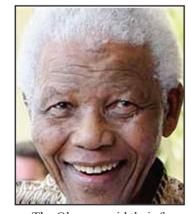
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Obamas pay homage to Mandela's iron will

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle Obama, paid tribute yesterday to South African ex-president Nelson Mandela ahead of his 94th birthday, as having "abiding humility" and "unbreakable will."

"On behalf of the people of the United States, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Nelson Mandela on the occasion of his 94th birthday and the fourth annual Nelson Mandela International Day," the US first couple said in a statement honoring the antiapartheid icon.

Mandela's "extraordinary life and steadfast commitment to the principles of democracy and reconciliation continues to be a beacon for people of all backgrounds who strive for dignity, justice, and freedom," they said, describing his personal story as "one of unbreakable will, unwavering integrity, and abiding humility.



The Obamas said their family "has been inspired by Madiba's example, and has deeply appreciated the time we have spent with him, and his wisdom, grace and generosity of spirit."

"By any measure," the statement read, "Nelson Mandela has changed the arc of history, transforming his country, continent, and the world."

The US first lady met with Mandela June 11, 2011 on a visit to South Africa with her daughters.

Aruba Olympic team treated to festive send-off to London



Last Saturday evening at the residence of Chu and Mrs. Ivis Halabi, the Aruba Olympic Committee (COA) held an amicable send-off ceremony for the Aruban delegation which left yesterday, Tuesday 17th for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Present for the festive sendoff were the athletes and their coaches, members of the Board of COA, parents, invited guests, sponsors and members of the press covering sports. After singing the Aruba Dushi Tera (National Anthem), this was followed by the singing of the Olympic Hymn.

COA Secretary General, Nicole Hoevertsz opened the evening with a hearty welcome to all, which was followed by an ample report of the history of the Olympic Games...how it all began more than 3000 years ago, and where it is today.

COA President, Roy Mezas shared some thoughts with those present, saying: that there is much more to the Olympics than simply winning medals. It involves how hard an athlete works to achieve the level of an Olympic medal, demonstrating his level of quality as an athlete, persever-



ing to one day achieve or surpass his level.

Continued on page 3





Aruba present at Int'l. Congress on Construction of rotunda **Archeology and Rock Art**



drs. Harold Kelly and dr. Aad Versteeg.

From June 26 to 30 the Aruba Archaeological Museum participated in the International Congress for Archeology and Rock Art in La Paz, Bolivia. Through the gracious support of UNOCA and the Ministry of Culture, Dr. Harold Kelly and Dr. Aad Versteeg were able to attend this congress as part of a project of study and documentation of all sites with paintings on Aruba's cliffs. Aruba's intention is to produce a publication with photos of all sites with paintings which could become the scientific basis for nominating these sites for inclusion in the Heritage List of World Patrimony.

Both Harold Kelly and Versteeg made presentations during the especial symposium

dedicated especially to the Caribbean. Harold Kelly's lecture drew a lot of attention as he spoke about the conservation of paintings on cliffs.

Based on his work with these paintings in Aruba, he presented the challenges that investigators and institutions have to study and care for them: what they encounter in order to preserve these paintings for the next generations.

Kelly's presentation was especially interesting to Australian Dr. Bednarik who is considered a connoisseur on the study and care of paintings on cliffs worldwide.

Dr. Versteeg, renowned in the region and in the Dutch Kingdom led the archaeological investigation in Aruba,

Sint Eustatius and Surinam. During the Congress he also accepted to help with the idea of promoting the heritage that Aruba deserves on the list of the World's Patrimony.

The next step that these two archaeologists will be taking is to work on the contents of the manuscript which will include a description of all the sites on Aruba's cliffs. The publication is expected to be completed by the start of

Aruba has a wealth of paintings left behind by Amerindians at more than 20 different sites. In addition to their historical value to Aruba, these paintings have captured the attention of investigators from across the region and in the Dutch Kingdom during the past decades.

Since the 19th Century, Peter van Koolwijk registered a great sum of these paintings. Later others like Pinart, Wagenaar Humelinck and Versteeg himself continued the registration. In this century the Archeological Museum discovered still a few more paintings.

at airport about to begin in earnest



Last Monday morning in the government's weekly press meeting, Minister Oduber, speaking on behalf of his absent colleague Minister Sevinger, announced that the construction of the special rotunda (traffic roundabout) at the airport is about to begin in earnest later this week. This rotunda at the airport will actually be the commencement of the Green Corridor to San Nicolas.

Both Marlon Croes of the DOW and Monty Croes of AAA were present at this press conference in order to provide detailed information

about the project. They also explained the changes to be enacted and the effect that the construction will have on the area in front off, leading to and from the airport and exactly how the flow of traffic will be orchestrated during the construction period.

According to the Minister of Public Works, conversations are ongoing between the DOW and the Airport (AAA) to ensure that the service provided by the airport remains optimal for both those using the airport facilities,

Continued on page 4

Oldest Aruba church, Misa Santa Anna, celebrates 235th birthday!

NOORD -- The Noord parish's Misa Santa Anna is celebrating its 47th lustrum...235 years, which is a very significant occasion! Misa Santa Anna is the oldest church on Aruba!

Preparations for such a milestone occasion are in full swing. The priest of the Santa Anna parish has installed a commission and they are working diligently to present a full program of activities for the general public which will culminate in the month of De-

July 29th is Santa Anna Day when the grand celebration will begin. At 5:00 in the afternoon a procession will leave from the Frans Figaroa Complex to the Misa di Noord. There at the church they will observe a Holy Mass with singing by a choir represented by all the choirs of the parish. After the Mass they will serve refreshments.

For this occasion the entire island is invited to this grand celebration. All uniformed groups, Whelps, Pathfinders, schools, children who have received first Holy Communion, children preparing for Confirmation, and athletic groups, etc. are also cordially invited to participate.

Misa Santa Anna is one of the beloved churches of the island hence the faithful from other parishes are invited to participate in the procession and in the grand celebration.

All who are willing to donate a cake should call Clea at telephone 562-0394 or Kimberly at telephone 593-2224

All participating in the grand celebration should bring flowers. These could be from your personal garden. The flowers will eventually be laid at the Santa Anna image.





Aruba Olympic team treated to festive send-off to London



Mezas wished the delegation much success at the London Games. Minister Visser, who was also present, said that it is important to maintain the Olympic attitude and principle. Our Olympic athletes must be examples to our youth who see them as leaders of our future generation.

The evening was replete with other presentations. The first was the presentation of the winner of the McDonald's Champions of Play, which went to Jair Kelly, who is also off to London together with his father. In London his job will be that of youth reporter and will be assisting with interviews and sharing his experience. Jair received a set of

uniforms to identify him as part of the Aruba delegation.

Rita Lopez Henriquez was recognized by the COA because of her dedication to sports and for her particular efforts to moti-

vate more women to become active in sports. Rita received "Women and Sport Diploma" from IOC

This was then followed by the presentation of a lovely certificate of participation for the athletes and trainers who participated in the Pan-American Games of October 2011 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

A few local companies also attended the send-off evening. They presented several products as their act of support to the Olympic delegation. So doing, Aventa presented a First Aid Kit to every athlete in the delegation. Giordano's is where the COA has been obtaining their polo shirts for many years, and this year

again they supplied the polo shirts for our athletes. SETAR is making sure that the delegation can remain in contact with Aruba and their homes through presenting them special SIM cards as well as a few gifts from the company.

The company Totto was also introduced as the company who confectioned the athletic uniforms of the Olympic Games delegation. Everyone was especially impressed with the durable quality and colorful modern design of the uniforms. According to many, it is the best uniform ever since COA's first trips abroad! Mrs. Magali Maduro was introduced as the designer of the uniforms. Maduro has been designing the official COA uniforms since way back in 2004 along with the official tailor of the uniforms, Manish Mirchandani of H.K. Taylor.

A Cuban selection of swimmers is also on Aruba en route to London. They were also present on Saturday evening at the official send-off. Athletes Hanser Garcia, Pedro Medel and Maria Luisa Mojarrieta are part of the Cuban delegation.

The official leader of the Mission for the Olympic

Games, Lopes Bryan was presented to the audience on Saturday evening. Bryan Lopes is charged with the responsibility to lead and direct the Aruban delegation. The culminating and most exciting moment of the evening was the presentation of each of

the Aruban athletes who will be performing at the 2102 London Olympic Games.

Each was elegantly attired in their sport uniform and the official uniform that will be worn during the inaugural ceremony on July 27th. These proud athletes were received with a hearty round of ap-

Finally, the Aruban flag was presented to COA President, Roy Mezas who in turn passed it on to Bryan Lopes who will take care of our flag throughout the Olympic Games.

Head of the Mission, Bryan Lopes, then presented the Aruban flag to Jemal Le Grand, the most outstanding



island. He will carry the flag during the inaugural ceremony in London. 'Master Chef' Chu Halabi,

athlete of the Aruba delega-

tion. Le Grand was appointed

the official flag bearer for our

then served everyone his own exquisite and tasty dishes, and demonstrated his tremendous hospitality with the Olympic family of Aruba. COA and The Morning

News, wish every member of the 2012 London Olympic Games delegation and in particular, our athletes much success. They can be sure that we will be following their every step very closely from here.

Construction of Rotunda at AAA

Continued from page 2

such as taxis and tour busses, our visitors, and our own people who must bring and pick up persons at the airport.

The intention is to place sufficient warning and directional signs along the new temporary routes to make sure that everything flows as smoothly as possible as we attempt to make the changes that will improve the Aruba product. The Minister congratulated the DOW on the last two very successful rotundas at the ex-Marathon and Banco di Caribe intersections. These were built within less than a week and are contributing greatly to a much



Maris Stella inaugurates a new standard in care for the elderly



New housing sports bright colors



Minister is greeted by some residents of the new section

Hans Rokebrand, Director of the Stichting Algemene Bejaardenzorg Aruba, or SABA, the non-profit foundation which funds and staff four homes for the elderly on Aruba, was very proud to welcome Aruba's Minister of Social & Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar to the official opening of a new phase in elderly care on Aruba.

Maristella in Savaneta was Aruba's first home for the elderly, opened with SABA was



The Minister with Dominico and Janny

founded, exactly 40 years ago. Yesterday morning they celebrated the landmark occasion by officially inaugurating a program for seniors who are more ambulatory than their usual patients, with the competency to live independently, but still close to the care they require.

Maristella Director Flora de Bie is extremely pleased to be able to accommodate this particular group in 17 renovated apartments that will be shared by two tenants, thus expanding the capacity of the center from 98 patients to care for an additional 34. These specialized residents still have the dignity of living in their own abode, with complete kitchens and a shared bedroom, while have easy access to all the activities, doctors, physical therapy and social interaction the center provides. SABA staff also provide cleaning and laundering services for the apartments, and residents can dine in the main facility or take food prepared in its kitchens back to their living quarters, or cook at home if they so desire.

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar commended SABA on their astute recognition that elderly often require assistance at differing levels. Being close at hand to support the elderly while allowing them to live with dignity and fend for themselves as much as possible is conducive to maintaining mental acuity and self-reliance.

acuity and self-reliance. Maristella residents Dominco and Janny welcomed the minister into their home for a tour, after which Director De Bie performed a ritual "christening" of the apartment complex. The entire Maris Stella facility has received a greatly need facelift with major renovations and some additions; residents are being temporarily housed at a care facility in Oranjestad, and will be returning in the fall.





Center Director De Bie christens the new complex



SABA Director Hans Rokebrand

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Divi IMPACT Foundation visits Aruba Homecare Foundation





Recently, the Divi IMPACT foundation members visited the Aruba

Homecare Foundation, situated in Jaburibari. The Divi IMPACT foundation is a initiative of the Divi Resorts employees, who want to give back to the community.

At the homecare members of Divi IMPACT prosented the clients baskets with presents.

Mariachi Perla di Aruba was in charge of entertainment, wooing clients with nice music.

The members of Divi IMPACT were very proud to be able to entertain out senior citizens and offer them a nice afternoon.

The foundation and its associates take community service and responsibility very seriously, organizing events throughout the year for worthy







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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Franklin Covey Co. announces the passing of Dr. Stephen R. Covey

renowned author, speaker and consultant

SALT LAKE CITY--Franklin Covey Co. yesterday announced that Dr. Stephen R. Covey, co-founder and a former vice-chairman and director of FranklinCovey, passed away peacefully due to the residual effects of a bicycle accident he suffered this past April. He was in his 80th year. In his final hours, he was surrounded by his loving wife and each of his children and their spouses.

Dr. Covey made a decision early in his life that his greatest contribution and life's work would be as a teacher. Beginning with his role as a university professor at Brigham Young University and then as an internationally-renowned author, speaker, and consultant, he has impacted the lives of countless millions worldwide. From grade school and university students, to Fortune 100 CEOs and numerous heads of state, he made teaching principle-centered leadership his life's work.

In 1996, Dr. Covey was recognized as one of Time magazine's 25 Most Influential Americans. He is the author of a number of acclaimed books, including the international bestseller The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, which has sold more than 20 million copies in 40 languages throughout the world. Other bestsellers include First Things First, Principle-Centered Leadership. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families, and The 8th Habit. His most recent books include The 3rd Alternative, The Leader in Me, and Everyday Greatness.

In 2002, Forbes named The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People one of the 10 most influential management books

ever written. Chief Executive magazine recognized The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as one of the two most influential books of the 20th century. Dr. Covey received the Fatherhood Award from the National Fatherhood Initiative, was named Speaker of the Year, received the Sikh's International Man of Peace Award, and The National Entrepreneur of the Year Lifetime Award for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

In 1984, Dr. Covey made the decision to leave full-time teaching as a university professor to establish a business organization, Covey Leadership Center, that could take princileadership ple-centered throughout the world. From the inception of that business, Dr. Covey's focus was always on writing and teaching, leaving the leadership and management of the business to others. In 1997, Covey Leadership Center merged with Franklin-Quest, to form Franklin Covey Co., a global performance improvement company that now operates in over 125 countries throughout the world. From the time of the merger to his retirement from the board last year, Dr. Covey devoted essentially all of his time and effort

to writing and teaching. To Stephen, more important than his professional work was his work with his family. Stephen was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and spent a considerable amount of time with his immediate and extended family, getting together for vacations, games, celebrations, birthdays, and events of all kinds, and having one-on-one time with each of his children and grandchildren, which he loved doing. Stephen truly believed that the greatest work we do is within the four walls of our own homes and was a model of a loving and committed husband and father to the end.

Bob Whitman, chairman and CEO of FranklinCovey, said, "We lost a dear friend today. Stephen was one of the world's great human beings. His impact is incalculable and his influence will continue to inspire generations to come. We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Covey's family, his wife Sandra, their nine children and spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Stephen frequently referred to them as his greatest joy, inspiration, and most significant contribution and legacy to the world."

San Bernardino : A sign mentioning its historic site is posted in front of the San Bernardino City Hall building in San California. Bernardino, The city in what is known as southern California's 'Inland Empire', some 65 miles (105 km) east of Los Angeles, recently became the third California city in the last two months to file for bankruptcy after suffering economic reversals for years, first from the loss of heavy industry decades ago, then from the closure of a big military base in the 1990s, and most recently from a housing boom that went bust. San Bernardino is the poorest city of its population size in California, and the second poorest in the US next to Detroit.

(AFP PHOTO)

US, Dutch probe needles in Delta Air sandwiches

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Authorities yesterday were investigating how sewing needles ended up in turkey sandwiches on several Delta Air Lines flights, prompting one unsuspecting passenger to be placed on anti-HIV drugs.

Both Dutch police and the American FBI launched probes after up to six needles were discovered in sandwiches on several US-bound flights departing from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport on Sunday.

"We are carrying out an investigation in collaboration with the American authorities," airport police spokesman Robert van Kapel told AFP. "The aim is to determine how the needles found their way into these sandwiches."

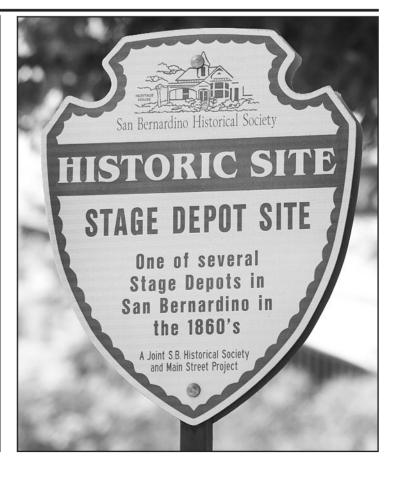
Business elite passenger James Tonges told ABC News he has been placed on the anti-HIV drug Truvada as a precaution after biting into his sandwich on board a Delta flight to Minneapolis.

Delta Air Lines and the sandwich maker at Schiphol airport, Gate Gourmet, said they were working with the authorities to probe the scandal, which caused no serious injuries but caused serious alarm for airline travelers.

Needles were found on aircraft bound for Atlanta, Seattle and Minneapolis from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, Delta spokeswoman Kristin Baur told AFP.

"Delta is taking this matter extremely seriously and is cooperating with local and federal authorities who are investigating the incident," the airline said in a statement.

Speaking from Atlanta, Georgia, where Delta is headquartered, FBI Special Agent Stephen Emmett said a criminal investigation into the matter has been launched. He declined to provide more details.





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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Colombia arrests Betancourt kidnap suspect

BOGOTA(AFP) - Colombian authorities have arrested a suspected kidnapper of former hostage Ingrid Betancourt, who was held in the jungle by leftist rebels for nearly six years, prosecutors said yesterday.

Marco Patino, alias "Efren or "Patequeso," was arrested on Monday in the southern department of Caqueta for having held the Franco-Colombian politician and other hostages against their will. Prosecutors said Patino had spent 31 years with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and had been second-in-command of their 55th Front.

FARC rebels captured Betancourt, a former senator and dual national, and her assistant Clara Rojas in February 2002.

Betancourt and 14 other hostages -- including three US military contractors -- were freed by the Colombian military on July 2, 2008.

Town of 1,800 evacuated in Canaries wildfire

VILAFLOR (AFP) - Spanish authorities evacuated a town of 1,800 residents on the Canary Islands yesterday, after three days of firefighting efforts failed to prevent a raging wild-fire from reaching it.

Residents were evacuating from the town of Vilaflor, south of the Teide national park that spans the centre of the Spanish island of Tenerife, as flames reached parts of the town

Emergency services "are evacuating residents from Vilaflor due to the advance of the fire from the east," the regional government said in a statement.

Authorities had prepared a shelter for the evacuees in the nearby town of Granadilla, the statement added.

Authorities earlier said the fire had crept a few meters into the Teide park, a major tourist attraction on the archipelago off northwest Africa, as firefighters battled to keep the flames away from populated areas.

Spain has been hit particularly hard by forest fires this year after experiencing its driest winter in 70 years. The worst fire ravaged 50,000 hectares in the eastern Spanish region of Valencia in July.



London taxi drivers park their cabs on Parliament Square, outside the houses of Parliament as they take part in a protest in reaction to not being allowed to use the Olympic driving lanes in London, Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Heat wave blisters U.S. states from Michigan to Maine



People relax in the sand at the Brooklyn Bridge Park pop-up pool in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. Excessive heat warnings or advisories have been issued for at least 15 states as another heat wave continues to smother the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and Northeast. According to the National Weather Service, temperatures will be 10-15 degrees above normal from Chicago to Boston, with dangerous heat index values exceeding 100 degrees through at least Wednesday.



A field of corn withers under triple-degree heat north of Wichita, Kan., in Sedgwick County Monday. The drought gripping the United States is the widest since 1956, according to new data released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Fifty-five percent of the continental U.S. was in a moderate to extreme drought by the end of June, NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., said.

Photo s hows indigenous natives dragging Colombian army sergeant Rodrigo Garcia out of his military post on Mount Berlin, in Toribio, Cauca deparment, Colombia, on July 17, 2012. Local indigenous natives decided to expel the soldiers from the area after harassment by the FARC leftist guerrillas resulted in eight people wounded and several houses with damages.

(AFP PHOTO)



Health & Living

India suspends doctors over banned foetal 'sex tests'

JAIPUR (AFP) - Twelve Indian doctors have been suspended for allegedly conducting prenatal sex tests, a practice banned to stop the abortion of female foetuses that has widened India's gender gap, officials said Tuesday.

The physicians were suspended on Monday from practising medicine following a court order, said Archana Johri, an official of the Rajasthan Medical Council watchdog.

"Five of the doctors were found guilty of sex determination practices while the remaining seven violated other provisions of the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act," she told AFP in Rajasthan state capital Jaipur.

In New Delhi, the Indian Medical Association condemned the alleged violations by the doctors in Rajasthan.

"It is a deplorable practice and we condemn it," Association Secretary D.R. Rai told AFP.

A study published last year in The Lancet said sex selection of foetuses in India led to 7.1 million fewer girls than boys up to age six, a gender gap that had grown by more than a million in a decade.

The 1996 law designed to prevent the use of ultrasound for prenatal sex tests is widely flouted in India, according to the study by researchers led by

Prabhat Jha of the Centre for Global Health at the University of Toronto.

India's prime minister Manmohan Singh last year labelled the practice of aborting female foetuses a "national shame" and ordered policy planners to increase efforts to stamp it out.

Married women in India face huge pressure to produce male heirs, who are seen as breadwinners while girls are often viewed as a burden to the family as they require hefty dowries to be married off.

India has launched an array of schemes to change attitudes towards girls, including offering cash incentives for families not to abort them, but many have had little impact.



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Health Tip:

Seniors, Prepare for Exercise



-- Exercise is beneficial at any age, and seniors can certainly enjoy its many benefits. Exercise contributes a lot to the two most important organs; the heart and the brain. But before getting started, you should learn how to exercise safely.

We offer these recommendations to help seniors get started:

- Include four types of exercise endurance, strength, balance and stretching in your workout regimen.
- •Gradually increase your aerobic workouts, and add variety to your routine.
- •Practice flexibility exercises, stretching slowly, gently and within your comfort level.
- •Practice strength training exercises, but under the guidance of your doctor, physical therapist or fitness professional.
- •Practice relaxation techniques to reduce stress and lower blood pressure.
- Wear the right clothes and Never force yourself.
- •Drink plenty of water each day.
- •Snack often throughout the day, and stick to light din-

And a most important point : Stay Motivated to Take Care of Yourself







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Taiwan finds H5N1 virus in birds smuggled from China

TAIPEI (AFP) - Dozens of pet birds smuggled from southern China into Taiwan tested positive for the deadly H5N1 avian flu virus and were destroyed, Taiwanese authorities said Tuesday.

The smuggler bought the 38 birds in the Chinese city of Guangzhou and was caught at the Taoyuan international airport in northern Taiwan when he returned via Macau earlier

this month, said the Centers for Disease Control.

The birds later tested positive for the H5N1 virus and were killed, it said, adding that nine people who had contact with the birds had not shown any flu symptoms during a ten-day screening.

Taiwan has no recorded cases of the deadly H5N1 strain, although in 2005 health authorities said eight pet birds

smuggled from China tested positive for the strain and destroyed

The island has reported several outbreaks of the H5N2 bird flu, a less virulent strain of the virus, in recent years.

China is considered one of the nations most at risk of bird flu epidemics because it has the world's biggest poultry population and many chickens in rural areas are kept close to humans

Polio campaign troubles imperil 350,000 Pakistan children



MIRANSHAH (AFP) - Pakistan yesterday postponed a polio immunisation campaign in parts of its tribal belt, jeopardising the health of more than 350,000 children after the Taliban banned inoculations.

Local Taliban and Pakistani warlord Hafiz Gul Bahadur, whose followers are fighting Western troops in Afghanistan, banned the vaccinations in the northwestern region of Waziristan to protest against US drone attacks.

They have condemned the immunisation campaign, which began nationwide on Monday, as a cover for espionage.

Pakistani doctor Shakeel Afridi was jailed for 33 years in May after helping the CIA find Osama bin Laden using a hepatitis vaccination programme as cover.

Fighting between government troops and local warlord Mangal Bagh also made it difficult to innoculate all children in Khyber district, officials said.

Officials in Miranshah, the main town of North Waziristan, said a meeting of tribal elders to discuss immunisation had been postponed due to a military curfew.

In Khyber, administration official Irfanullah Wazir told AFP that the target was to vaccinate 200,163 children, but conceded the campaign would be affected in parts of Bara

and the Tirah valley, where 111,556 children need the drops.

Fawad Khan, director of health services in the tribal belt, told AFP last week that at least 160,000 children in North Waziristan and 80,000 in South Waziristan would be affected if polio drops are not administered.

Pakistan says 34 million children under five will be targeted in the three-day polio immunisation campaign from Monday to Wednesday.

The Lancet medical journal has said vaccination problems led last year to Pakistan's highest number of polio cases in a decade, 198, compared to 144 in 2010.

Polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.

The highly infectious disease affects mainly the underfives and can cause paralysis in a matter of hours. Some cases can be fatal.



Sci-Tech

New Cuban biodiesel looks to 'bellyache bush'

HAVANA (AFP) A new biodiesel plant in Cuba -- the first of its type -- is turning seeds from the so-called "bellyache bush" into a green energy source, it was announced yesterday

Jatropha seeds are rich in oil but toxic for human consumption, explained Jose Sotolongo, director of the province's Center for Applied Technology for Sustainable Development.

"It's a major change to the widespread paradigm in global biofuel production," Sotolongo said, explaining the industry has so far mainly used edible vegetable oils, such as sunflower or soybean.

The jatropha plant offers the additional advantage, he

added, "that its cultivation is feasible in areas of low or no agricultural value."

The small factory in Guantanamo province, on the eastern end of the island, is capable of producing over 100 tons of the fuel per year, according to the website of a local television station.

The factory was built with Cuban state funds, along with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Sotolongo said about 130 acres of jatropha were planted at Guantanamo to supply the factory, adding that the



first few liters of fuel have already been used successfully to power agricultural machinery in the area.

The seeds have traditionally been used on the island to fight intestinal parasites and to lower fevers, but only in small doses because it can be toxic.

Cuba already uses sugar cane or forest biomass to produce electricity.

The communist nation, which currently imports half of its fuel from close ally Venezuela, has said it aims to generate a sixth of its electricity from renewable sources before the end of the decade.

It is also exploring for oil in its part of the Gulf of Mexico. The United States and Mexico, which also border the body of water, already produce oil from wells on the Gulf coast.



Apple's next iPhone to feature 'slimmer screen'

(AFP) - Apple is expected to unveil a new iPhone later this year with a slimmer screen thanks to updated touch-screen technology.

The next generation iPhone, referred to by fans as the "iPhone 5", is being manufactured by Asian component makers, Dow Jones Newswires quoted unnamed sources as saying.

Its panels will use "in-cell technology" integrating touch sensors into the LCD, it said.

That makes a separate touch-screen layer unnecessary and reduces the screen thickness by about half a millimetre, Dow Jones quoted DisplaySearch analyst Hiroshi Hayase as saying.

The new technology will also boost displayed image quality, and help Apple cut costs as it would no longer have to buy touch panels and LCDs from separate suppliers, the report added.

It said Japanese liquid crystal display makers Sharp and Japan Display Inc as well as South Korea's LG Display Cowere currently mass producing panels for the next iPhone.

Apple is widely expected to launch the device in the third quarter of this year, around 12



months after the release of its hugely popular iPhone 4S -- the firm's first new product following the death of co-founder Steve Jobs.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment on the report or the next iPhone's release date when contacted by AFP

The report came amid heated competition from rivals such as Samsung, whose flagship smartphone the Galaxy S III uses a 4.8-inch (12.2 centimetre) screen that is thinner than the current iPhone.

Apple posted a \$11.6 billion profit in the first three months this year, led by record sales of iPad tablet computers and iPhones -- the latter surging 88 percent year-on-year.



A Sumatran orangutan believed to be the oldest reproductive specimen in captivity celebrated his 50th birthday Tuesday at a zoo in western France. As photographers snapped pictures, Major, a 125-kilogramme (275-pound) father of 16, blew out the candles on a strawberry birthday cake at the zoo in La Boissieredu-Dore near Nantes where he has lived for more than 20 years. Born in 1962 in Indonesia, Major was captured seven years later and held in zoos in Germany before being transferred to France in 1989. His keepers said Major, who lives at the zoo with his three female companions and four children, is especially prized for his reproductive prowess. "When you know that an interval of four to five years is needed between each birth for a female, it's exceptional," zoo director Sebastien Laurent said. (Sebastien Laurent, gives a slice of cake to Major)



PICKLES









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ACROSS

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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

HSBC admits 'failure' to prevent money-laundering

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Shamed HSBC executives admitted failing to apply antilaundering rules on Monday, as lawmakers accused the global bank of giving Iran, terrorists and drug dealers access to the US financial system.

With the banking sector already under fire for manipulating interest rates and reckless trading, HSBC said more should have been done to prevent years of abuse amounting to tens of billions of dollars of illicit transactions.

The president of HSBC Bank USA (HBUS), Irene Dorner, apologized to US Senators yesterday for what the bank has called its "unacceptable" level of compliance over nearly a decade.

"I recognize that there have been some significant areas of failure," David Bagley, the head of group compliance for London-based HSBC, said at a hearing of the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee on Investigations.

"HSBC has fallen short of our own expectations and the expectations of our regulators," he said.

While Bagley said the bank has "learned a number of valuable lessons" he acknowledged that this "clearly took far too long to resolve.

In its 330-page report, the Senate found the lender allowed affiliates in countries such as Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh to move billions of dollars in suspect funds into the United States without adequate controls.

Lawmakers grilled HSBC executives and US Treasury officials for failing to guard against money laundering they said benefited Mexican drug lords and terrorist networks, and for their bypassing of US sanctions on Iran.

"It's pretty shocking stuff," subcommittee chairman Senator Carl Levin said.

Among the findings was the

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revelation that HSBC and its US affiliate concealed more than \$16 billion (13 billion euros) in sensitive transactions to Iran, violating US transparency rules over a six-year

HSBC executives were aware of the "concealed Iranian transactions" -- which stripped all identifying Iranian information from documentation -- as early as 2001 but allowed thousands of transactions to continue until 2007.

A review of HSBC's use of so-called U-turn transactions, in which funds are sent into and then out of the United States through non-Iranian foreign banks, showed the bank conducted almost 25,000 US dollar transactions with Iran.

"The vast majority of the Iranian transactions, ranging from 75 to 90 percent over the years, were sent through HBUS and other US dollar accounts without disclosing any connection to Iran," according

The US prohibits doing business with nations it regards as enemies such as Iran and North Korea, and its Office of Foreign Assets Control

(OPAC) imposes tight filters to halt potentially prohibited transactions.

Levin said the bank willfully circumvented the OFAC filters.

The senator said senior HSBC officials in London "knew what was going on, but allowed the deceptive conduct to continue."

Under the slogan "The World's Local Bank", the network that began life as the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation provides US dollars to HSBC banks in many countries under a procedure known as "correspondent banking."

But its compliance failures clearly spun out of control.

The report said HSBC's Mexican affiliate "transported \$7 billion in physical US dollars to HBUS from 2007 to 2008... raising red flags that the volume of dollars included proceeds from illegal drug sales in the United States."

And it said HBUS "provided US dollars and banking services to some banks in Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh despite links to terrorist financ-



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HSBC compliance chief resigns at US Senate hearing

WASHINGTON (AFP) HSBC's head of compliance resigned yesterday in front of a US Senate panel after lawmakers released a damning report accusing the global bank of giving drug dealers and terrorists access to the US financial system.

In prepared testimony, David Bagley told the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee on Investigations that "there have been some significant areas of failure," and that HSBC "has fallen short of our own expectations and the expectations of our regulators."



David Bagley

But as he began reading his printed remarks, Bagley indicated he was stepping down amid a reorganization of the London-based bank's compliance division.

"Now is the appropriate time for me, and for the bank, for someone new to serve as the head of group compliance," Bagley said.

"I have agreed to work with the bank's senior management toward an orderly transition of this important role.'

Bagley did not say whether he was leaving the bank altogether.

Bernanke: Libor 'structurally flawed'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said yesterday that revelations a key inter-bank lending rate had been rigged were "very troubling," undermined confidence in the financial system and should be fixed.

Speaking to Congress, Bernanke said the disclosures, which have resulted in a large fine for British bank Barclays, showed the so-called Libor system was "structurally flawed."

Under current rules, a small panel of banks submits an unregulated estimate of what they would pay to borrow from each other.

A central range is then found for the rate -- which underpins the cost of everything from mortgages to credit cards.

"Libor is a critical benchmark to many financial contracts," Bernanke told US lawmakers.

"The actions of traders and banks that have been disclosed are not only very troubling in themselves, but they have the effect of undermining markets," Bernanke said in testimony to the Senate Banking

Committee.

Emails, phone transcripts and internal reports released last week by the New York Fed show the regulator was explicitly told banks were misstating their input to the Libor interbank lending rate.

"We'll get more information on that as the investigations continue, but it's clear that beyond these disclosures that the Libor system is structurally flawed and part of the response was to address those flaws."

Emails also show that the New York Fed -- which is tasked with assessing the safety and soundness of US banks -- in June 2008 shared its concerns with the Bank of England, which regulates the territory where the Libor is

Bernanke said that because "a relatively small number of changes" were actually adopted by the British authorities, he could not vouch for the reliability of the rate today.

Facing questions about why the Fed did not do more, Bernanke indicated that finding specific wrongdoing was difficult based on the information the Fed had.

He pointed out that banks did not appear to be manipulating the rate for profit and money did not always change hands amid a lack of liquidity in markets during the financial crisis

Barclays's fines paid to US and British regulators related to the manipulation of products derived from Libor, rather than the manipulation of the rate itself.

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The soap opera life of Mexico's next first lady

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Angelica Rivera is known as "La Gaviota" or The Seagull, the woman she portrayed in a hit telenovela, but Mexicans will soon have to get accustomed to addressing the former soap star as First Lady.

When Rivera, 41, married Mexico's next president Enrique Pena Nieto in November 2010 she was more famous than him, and the soap star was a magnet for TV fans on the campaign trail, attracting young hordes that rarely vote.

She said little and did not speak to reporters while her husband campaigned but was often by his side, sometimes with children in tow.

At rallies, adoring fans would try to pose for a picture with her, ask for her autograph or to give her a kiss. "Gaviota! Gaviota!" they cried out from behind metal fences set up to contain the crowds.

There are plenty of pictures of Rivera in skimpy outfits, often posing with muscular, bare-chested men -- such as the October 1992 cover of a wrestling magazine where she poses with a practically naked wrestler called "Black Magic."

But despite the glossy covers, Rivera has had a scandalfree life as she makes the transition from soap star to one half of Mexico's political power couple.

The 45-year-old Pena Nieto, who looks the part of a telenovela heartthrob himself, married his first wife Monica Pretelini in 1993, and the couple had three children.

The then governor of the State of Mexico, home to 15 percent of Mexico's 112 million people, admitted fathering children outside his marriage with two different women, but Pretelini died in 2007 of an epileptic fit.

The following year he met Rivera, who was divorced and also had three children. She was one of the Televisa stars that Pena Nieto hired in a controversial state program to publicize his good government work.

The relationship between the politician and the actress was at first discreet, some say even contrived. The two were seen together in restaurants, but their public displays of affection were timid.

When Pena Nieto announced that he was dating Rivera on a celebrity news show, the story became fodder for both political wonks and the celebrity press.

"We had been going out for



In the Soap opera 'La Gaviota"

about five months, and one day he invited me to dinner at a restaurant. Then he stared at me, slowly hugged me and asked if I wanted to be his fiancee," Rivera told the celebrity magazine Quien in 2011.

"It was the first time someone asked, 'Do you want to be my fiancee?' Of course I said yes, and he answered: 'Say yes properly.' And I repeated more emphatically, 'Yes, of course!'"

After months of dating, he presented Rivera with an engagement ring while on a visit to the Vatican in December 2009. Pope Benedict XVI even blessed the dashing couple.

At the time, Rivera was still basking in the glow of her success in the 2007 hit soap "Distilling Love," and her role as "La Gaviota," a field hand who falls in love with her employer's handsome grandson.

TV cameras were not inside the cathedral of Toluca -- in the capital of the State of Mexico -- when the couple married in November 2010, but they were outside to film the A-list celebrity guests. Photos of the event were later released to the media.

The couple, of course, posed for pictures on their way out -- and Rivera threw her bouquet to fans. Both waved and blew kisses to the crowd.

Having Rivera as the country's first lady is so jarring that a joke e-mail, purportedly sent by Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI),

has been making the rounds.

"If you have a picture of the future first lady of Mexico on the wall of your tire repair shop, please take it down," reads the e-mail message. It includes pictures of a younger Rivera wearing skimpy bikinis.

Born August 2, 1970, Rivera started her career as a teenage model, winning a beauty and talent contest at the age of 17.

She was quickly taken in by Televisa, Mexico's giant entertainment and news conglomerate, and was mentored by Veronica Castro, the doyenne of Mexican soap operas. Years later, the two became in-laws when Rivera married Castro's brother, Televisa producer Jose Alberto Castro.

Early in her career, Rivera appeared as a model in a video with Mexican superstar singer Luis Miguel, and by the late 1980s she was appearing in secondary roles Televisa soaps.

In 1991, now with died blonde hair, she made a big splash in her role as the "bad" girl in the telenovela "Reach for a Star II," flirting with an innocent secondary actor -the not-yet famous singer Ricky Martin.

"All men are unfaithful," the young actress joked in a TV interview at the time, brought back to life via YouTube. In another she talks about the importance of her bottom, and how she flirts with men.



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'Forget Manhattan! Try Jerusalem,' Israel tells Woody

JERUSALEM (AFP) -He's had "Manhattan,"
"Midnight in Paris" and
"Vicky Cristina
Barcelona," and now Israeli officials are trying
to convince legendary
US film-maker Woody
Allen to set a movie in
the Holy City of
Jerusalem.

Both President Shimon Peres and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat are part of the effort, their offices said, with Barkat even holding a pow-wow with Allen and his one-time muse Diane Keaton earlier this year.

"President Peres always encourages producers and directors to

come and make films in Israel," an official in his office told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Barkat's spokesman said the mayor also sat down with Allen and Keaton in Manhattan itself to try to draw him to Jerusalem.

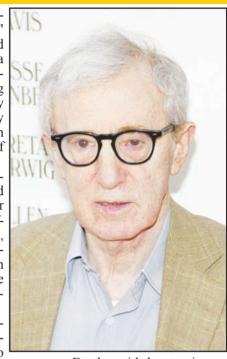
"The mayor met Woody Allen a few months ago at a restaurant with Diane Keaton in Manhattan," municipality spokesman Barak Cohen said.

"He invited him to come to Israel, but also told Woody that we would love for him to entertain the possibility of filming in Jerusalem and would do everything possible to facilitate him coming here," he said.

Cohen said the bid to lure Allen came in the context of a larger project to convince directors and producers to consider filming in Jerusalem.

"Not only is it important to show Jerusalem for all of its beauty and normalcy around the world, but also there's a well-documented history of films creating name recognition for places around the world," he said.

He acknowledged that Jerusalem's film fund, which provides up to \$400,000 for projects filmed in the Holy City, was unlikely to meet the budget of an average Woody Allen film.



But he said that tax incentives and the availability of equipment and facilities could draw Allen nonetheless, and that Barkat planned to follow up with the film-maker in the United States.





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Obama gets second chance on the 'Kiss Cam'



President Obama was in attendance at Monday's tuneup games for the U.S. men's and women's basketball teams vs. Brazil.

On the first time the Obamas' images flashed on the overhead 'Kiss-cam' scoreboard, Mrs. Obama was seen shaking her head "no.

deputy press secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday this was not a marital brushoff. He said the couple didn't realize it was the Kiss Cam watching them; they only found this out after, during halftime, when their daughters asked why they had ducked the chance to smooch.

The president got his doover later in the game when the Kiss Cam again swung his way. This time, he gave Mrs. Obama a big kiss on the lips, and added a peck on the forehead for good measure. The crowd roared.



Tom Cruise has reunited with his daughter Suri (6) for the first time since his estranged wife Katie Holmes filed for divorce last month. Cruise has been filming his latest movie abroad but wrapped the shoot to fly to New York City, where he will spend several days with Suri.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and fami-lies, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast high-speed fiber-optic Intera shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spaparents or a few couples.

net connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are cious, offering privacy for available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

appointed rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package. Check-in for your holiday



escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.





Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12

Father v son dilemma for volleyball family

SYDNEY (AFP) - Jon Uriarte says it's destiny and a gift that his Australian team will face

Phelps will let swim speak for him on work ethic leyball London Urian coaching his reward 'Volleyr'



KNOXVILLE (AFP) - Michael Phelps, criticized by a fellow US Olympic swimmer about his work ethic earlier this week, said he plans to let his swimming do the talking for him about the subject.

Phelps, who won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and six golds and two bronzes at the 2004 Athens Games, spoke as the US squad gathered ahead of traveling to London for the Olympics, which begin on July 27.

Tyler Clary, in comments to the Riverside Press-Enterprise

newspaper in his California hometown, spoke about a poor work ethic from Phelps when they were at the University of Michigan together.

"I saw a real lack of preparation (from) him," Clary said. "Basically he was a swimmer that didn't want to be there."

Asked to respond, Phelps made it clear he was not concerned what anyone else had to say about his motivation.

Clary said that he works harder than Phelps.

"The fact that I know I work harder than he does makes me appreciate every little goal and every little gain that I make," Clary said. "The fact that he doesn't have to work as hard to get that done, it's a real shame.

Phelps will compete in seven events at the London Olympics. Clary will swim the 200 butterfly and 200 backstroke in his first Olympics.

Clary said he regretted the distraction made by his comments and said he has spoken to Phelps and there were no hard feelings between them.



The then 14-year-old Romanian Nadia Comaneci became one of the stars of the Montreal Games in 1976 and shot to worldwide stardom - later appearing on the cover of Time magazine - after a faultless 10.00 score in the uneven bars. (Prior to that day, no athlete in modern Olympic history had ever achieved a perfect score in a gymnastics event). Comaneci impressed the judges with her spectacular routine. She earned a total of seven perfect 10.00s during the Games, on her way to capturing the all-around, beam and bars titles and a bronze medal in the floor exercise.

his son Nicolas and native Argentina in their opening volleyball pool match at the London Olympics.

Uriarte, 50, is in his second coaching stint in Australia and his reward for qualifying the 'Volleyroos' for London is a showdown to conflict the loyalties of his family back in Buenos Aires.

Uriarte, who won a bronze medal with Argentina at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, has coached his home country in between stints with Australia in 2001-2004 and since May last year.

passionate about their sport, everybody was just so happy. The technology allowed me to watch them having that dinner on my screen."

But now come the split loyalties among the Uriarte clan as the big day draws near.

Jon's daughter, Delfina, 15, who has played state-level volleyball in Buenos Aires and lived for four years in Australia during her father's first stint there, knows who she will be supporting in London.

"My wife asked Delfina 'who are you going to cheer for?' and she said 'I will paint



Australia qualified for a second Olympics after finishing ahead of higher-ranked Iran, Japan, China and South Korea at a qualifying tournament in Tokyo in June.

He roars with laughter at the thought his emerging Australian team will have his country of birth, organised by setter Nicolas, lining up on the other side of the net in their opening game at Earl's Court on July 29.

"It's some kind of gift. I can't believe it that I would be at the Olympics with my son for our own achievements," Uriarte told AFP. "Nicolas is now 22, he's earned his position in the Argentina national team and I've been so happy that life has given me this opportunity for my work to be so fulfilled.

Jon is in regular contact with his family and Nicolas through Internet video calls and says his family was overjoyed when news reached them that Australia had made it through to the Olympics.

"That night it was 12 hours' time difference from Japan to Argentina and when I woke up the next day I connected with them through Skype and my family was having sushi just to celebrate that we had qualified for the Olympics in Japan," he chuckled. "All my three children play volleyball. It was their choice. They are very

my two cheeks both countries' flags, but I want Australia to win'", Jon said.

"My family all enjoyed their time here and loved this country deeply. Argentina is our country of birth and we have the culture, but we learned to love this country so much."

Under Uriarte, Australian volleyball has grown under a junior scholarship scheme, first developed by him at Australia's Institute of Sport in Canberra early last decade.

Now Australia, with all the squad playing in overseas professional leagues, has climbed to 22 in the FIVB world rankings, won the Asian championships in 2007 and finished fourth last year.

Uriarte believes his intimate knowledge of the Argentine team will give Australia its best chance of springing an upset in London.

"We know Argentina have been playing in the World League for the past four years. They are playing the best teams in the world all the time.

"We have been fortunate to get the opportunities against the best teams and on our way to Japan we were able to play Poland, Bulgaria and Italy, who are three of the five teams we have got in our pool.

"I think we will be really well prepared for this opening match against Argentina and Nicolas"



London chief plays down transport woes

LONDON (AFP) - London Olympics chief organiser Sebastian Coe on Tuesday played down talk of transport problems at the Games after a US athlete complained of a nightmare journey across the British capital.

Two-time world 400 metres hurdles champion Kerron Clement said that on the first day of arrivals on Monday, the bus ferrying him and his US teammates from Heathrow Airport to the Athletes' Village had taken four hours.

"I don't think we should get out of proportion some of these issues," Coe told a press conference at the Olympic Park in Stratford, east London.

"We had a tweet yesterday talking about a four-hour delay when it was actually two-and-a-half hours. We had a driver that missed a turning. Well, out of 100 coach journeys that is likely to happen."

Coe added: "The majority of athletes got in in good shape and on time. When they were met by our village mayor and chief executive they were busily tweeting saying how much they were enjoying village life.

"Getting in from the airport and to the village is important and 98 percent of those journeys went without any hitch at all yesterday."

Transport has been a major worry for the 2012 host city in the run-up to the Games, which start on July 27, and there were mixed reactions from athletes arriving on Monday.

Clement tweeted: "Um, so we've been lost on the road for 4hrs. Not a good first impression London... Athletes are sleepy, hungry and need to pee. Could we get to the Olympic Village please."

A spokesman for British Prime Minister David Cameron said that despite having one of the busiest days in its history, the longest queue at passport control at Heathrow was just 25 minutes long on Monday.



Basketball: US stars slam plan for Olympic youth movement

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Kobe Bryant and Chris Paul, two of the most high-profile NBA players on the USA team, have added their voices to the growing opposition to proposals by their league that veteran players should not be allowed to feature in future Olympic Games.

NBA Commissioner David Stern, with the urging of the league's owners, has suggested

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Tel: 588-9517 / Fax: 588-9518 E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com Website: www.themorningnewsaruba.com that after London 2012 the basketball tournament will follow the format of Olympic football and allow only players aged 23 and under to play.

The large number of absentees from the current USA Olympic team through injury has added fuel to the movement and the loss only last week of LA Clippers forward Blake Griffin to a knee injury was interpreted in some quarters as signaling the end of the 20-year practice of NBA players appearing at the Olympics.

"The Olympics is really about putting the best athletes out there to compete against the best. From a basketball standpoint, it would lessen the Olympics, absolutely said Bryant,

"I don't think they really discuss it much with us, we just discuss it like this, we kind of voice our opinions through you guys (media).

Bryant did not hesitate to pledge his commitment to the USA's bid to retain their Olympic title and he has an instant retort to the suggestion that NBA owners are merely looking to protect the health of their players by proposing the change.

"No, it's to protect their investments," he said. "When you look at guys who are injured here, they have treatment around the clock. We have the best training staff, we have the professional coaches who are here monitoring us.

"If our owners or NBA coaches want to contact us and see how we're doing, they can easily come to practice, they can easily talk to the training staff - as opposed to guys disappearing for the summer, coming back overweight and not knowing where they are.

Paul, a team mate of Bryant's in their 2008 Olympic triumph, had a minor thumb injury during the USA's training camp in Las Vegas last week, but has reported himself fully fit after appearing in warm-up victories over the Dominican Republic and Brazil.

The point guard also shares Bryant's unequivocal support for NBA players appearing in the Games.

"I'm thankful they haven't thought about that now," said Paul. "If that was the case, I wouldn't be able to play now. I'm 27 years old.



The Knicks plans to cut ties with Jeremy Lin allowing the popular point guard who spawned "Lin-sanity" in New York to head to Houston, the New York Times reported. Lin's fate has been the subject of intense speculation since he became a restricted free agent this month. He inked a \$25 million offer sheet with the Rockets, but the Knicks had the option of matching it until midnight Tuesday night. The Knicks had vowed to match any offer Lin received. But the Rockets' offer included a \$14.9 million scheduled payment for the third year, which would have cost the Knicks millions in luxury-tax penalties on excessive salaries. Knicks star Carmelo Anthony had been among those hoping the young point guard would stay, although he knew money would be an issue.



MLB Standings										
American	Le	ag	ue	National L	National League					
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	τ	Pct	GB	
YANKEES	55	34	.618		WASHINGTON	51	33	.586		
BALTIMORE	46	43	.517	9.0	ATLANTA	49	39	.557	2.5	
BOSTON	46	44	.511	9.5	NY METS	46	43	.517	6.0	
TAMPA	46	44	.511	9.5	MIAMI	40	46	.483	9.0	
TORONTO	45	45	.500	10.5	PHILADELPHIA	40	51	.440	13.0	
Central	w	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct (GB	
CHICAGO	49	40	.551		CINCINNATI	50	39	.562		
DETROIT	47	43	.522	2.5	PITTSBURG	49	40	.551	1.0	
CLEVELAND	46	43	.517	3.0	ST. LOUIS	47	43	.522	3.5	
KANSAS	38	50	.432	10.5	MILWAUKEE	42	47	.472	8.0	
MINNESOTA	37	52	.416	12.0	CHICAGO	36	52	.409	13.5	
West	w	1	Pct	CP	HOUSTON	34	56	.378	16.5	
TEXAS	54	35	.607	GB 	West	W	L	Pct (GB	
LA ANGELES	49	41	.544	5.5	SAN FRANCISCO	49	40	.551		
OAKLAND	46	43	.517	8.0	LA DODGERS	48	43	.527	2.0	
SEATTLE	38	53	.418		ARIZONA	43	46	.483	6.0	
VEATTEE			0		SAN DIEGO	36	55		14.0	
					COLORADO	35	54	.393	14.0	
x -Clinched Playoff Spot; y -Division Champ										



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TEAM ARUBA MET STRUGGLES AT SUMMER NATIONALS

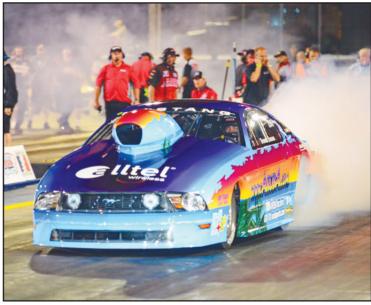
MARTIN, Mi. - The American Drag Racing League continued to be plagued by weather issues as they ventured north for the Summer Nationals at US 131 Motorsports Park. The off and on rain threw many teams for a loop and Team Aruba was no exception.

Extreme Pro Stock lost one qualifying run due to rain, but Team Aruba qualified a respectable 12th with a 4.120 at 175mph. As crews worked to battle the rain throughout the weekend, teams were also playing a guessing game against the weather. Unfortunately for Team Aruba, things did not play out in their favor as a dicey first round pass pushed Trevor Eman and the Aruba.com/Alltel Wireless Mustang across the center line, disqualifying their run.

"Indeed Martin wasn't the greatest of weekends," told Eman. "It almost seems as if

we are never getting a break from weather or some other delay. Lately, we have always been losing one of the qualifying rounds due to weather and it's that extra run that we always need for the additional data. Depending on that run, we get behind the eight ball and then struggle when eliminations come around.

"We know we had a good race car this weekend. Kaase did an excellent job on the



Tour star Schleck positive for diuretic: UCI

PAU (AFP) - Luxembourg's Frank Schleck, a former podium finisher at the Tour de France, has tested positive for a banned diuretic, the International Cycling Union (UCI) announced Tuesday.

Schleck, who finished third in 2011, is currently racing the 99th edition with the RadioShack team run by Belgian Johan Bruyneel.

A statement from the UCI said 32-year-old Schleck had been informed of an "Adverse Analytical Finding (presence of the diuretic Xipamide based on the report from the WADA accredited laboratory in Châtenay-Malabry) in the urine sample collected from him at an in competition test at the Tour de France on 14 July 2012."

Schleck "has the right to request and attend the analysis of his B sample".

The UCI, however, indicated it expects Schleck to be immediately suspended from the race, in accordance with strict anti-doping rules in place.

Diuretics are not performance-enhancing in themselves although they can be used to help riders lose weight, and therefore perform better in the



tough mountain stages of the race.

Xipamide, a diuretic, is normally used for the treatment of oedema and hypertension.

Schleck has a chance of proving his innocence because Xipamide falls into a special category of substances under the World Anti Doping Code called 'Specified Substances'.

The Code states that when an "athlete can establish that the use of such a specified substance was not intended to enhance sport performance, the period of ineligibility... shall be replaced with the following."

For a first violation athletes face anything from "a repri-

mand" or, at most, a "one year's ineligiblity".

A second violation would incur "two years ineligibility", in other words a two-year ban, while a third violation would incur a "lifetime ban".

After the second rest day Tuesday, the race resumes today when the 16th stage takes the peloton over four major climbs towards a downhill finish at Bagneres-De-Luchon

Schleck, whose younger brother Andy was awarded the race victory from 2010 after Spain's Alberto Contador was disqualified for doping, sits in 12th place at 9:45 off the pace of race leader Bradley Wiggins of Britain.

motor. We had great speed during our runs and the Haas chassis was making consistently straight runs, but we missed the tune up when the track was at its hottest for the first round of eliminations and that cost us the win.

"Despite the tough conditions, US 131 and the ADRL did a great job this weekend. They battled the weather that hurt us on Friday and managed to still give us two sessions. On Saturday the rain came and went a couple of times, and the ADRL and track crews stuck with it to have the rain move out and dry the track to get the race completed. Our team thanks them for their hard work!

"We plan on doing some strenuous testing before the Charlotte race because we just can't continue to do like we have been all year. We have great sponsors with Aruba.com and Alltel Wireless and we should be taking them to the winners circle, because we know we have the equipment to accomplish that and our sponsors and fans deserve to enjoy a winner's circle with us.

"We can only look forward to Charlotte now and concentrate on making it happen there. We will be displaying the Aruba.com / Alltel Wireless sponsor XPS Mustang in Wadesboro and Rockingham, NC on Tuesday and Wednesday before the Charlotte race, so hopefully we can get all the Alltel Wireless fans to come join us at the display and then at the race as well. We can certainly use their encouraging cheers! In St. Louis we had a great deal of fans, friends and family cheering us on and we made it to the finals. So Alltel and Aruba fans, come out to Charlotte and cheer us on to victory!"

Keep up with Team Aruba at www.facebook.com/tea-marubaracing and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba!

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